

Senate Resolution 537

By: Senators Henson of the 41st, Rogers of the 21st and Goggans of the 7th

ADOPTED

A RESOLUTION

Designating the first week of April each year as "Living Will Week" in Georgia; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, life-and-death situations confront thousands of persons within the State of Georgia each year due to life-threatening illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, personal and family values should determine the degree to which a person endures the burdens and hardships of medical treatment or application of life-sustaining procedures; and

WHEREAS, the preparation of a Living Will, also known as an Advance Directive, would advise family members, medical providers, and other persons of how an individual would want to be treated in certain crisis situations; and

WHEREAS, physicians, other health care providers, clergy, legal counsel, and family members should, or may, provide guidance and insight into determining the final wishes of a person when the Living Will is being prepared; and

WHEREAS, to avoid any legal or medical confusion due to the emotions from end of life decisions, it is in the best interest of all Georgians that each person over the age of 18 communicate his or her wishes by creating a Living Will; and

WHEREAS, the designation of the first week of April of each year as "Living Will Week" will give honor and respect to all persons as they make critical decisions about the end of their lives and allow death with dignity according to their own decisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the first week of April of each year is designated as "Living Will Week" in

Georgia and the members of this body encourage the citizens of Georgia to prepare a Living Will, also known as an Advance Directive, to assist family members, medical professionals, and others as they honor the final wishes of a person in a moment of crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body encourage medical, civic, educational, religious, and other nonprofit organizations to encourage individuals to prepare Living Wills to ensure that each person's wishes and rights are protected.